

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1 and 3-5, 7 and 8 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 are independent.

Claims 5 and 8 are amended. Claims 2 and 6 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment reduces the issues on appeal by canceling allowable claim 6 and incorporating the limitations thereof into independent claim 5. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicants did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)/Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,464,617 to Lee. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are allowed. Claims 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the rejection, but merely to expedite the prosecution of the instant application, as set forth above, claim 6 is canceled and the limitations of claim 6 have been added into independent claim 5, and therefore independent claim 5 should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from independent claim 5, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from claim 5, which is believed to be allowable. In addition, claims 7 and 8 recite further limitations which are not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art reference.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Sam Bhattacharya (Reg. No. 48,107) at the telephone number of the undersigned

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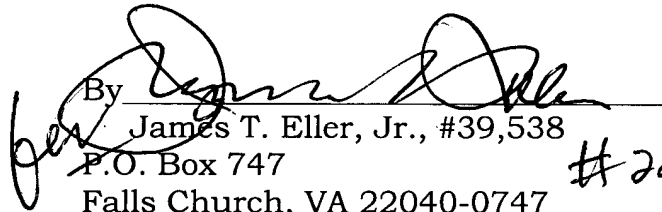
below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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0808-0319P

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